

REMARKS**Status of the Claims**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the instant application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 41-45 and 47-52 are pending in this application. Of these claims, claims 48-52 have been withdrawn. Claim 46 has been canceled. Claims 41-44 have been amended. Applicants respectfully submit that these changes introduce no new matter. Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Election

Applicants confirm the election with traverse of Group I, claims 41-47.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner objects to claim 46 for depending from a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner states that this claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 41 has been amended to recite the features of claim 46.

Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 41, 42, 44 and 45 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1, 1, 9 and 8 respectively of U.S. Patent No. 6,672,358 to Yanagita et al. Claims 43 and 47 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,672,358 to Yanagita et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,849,602 to Okamura et al. Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

As stated above, claim 41 has been amended to recite the features of allowable dependent claim 46 (now canceled). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 41 be withdrawn. Claims 42-45 and 47 depend from claim 41. Therefore, Applicants request that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn for at least the reasons set forth with respect to claim 41.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed accommodated or rendered moot. Thus, Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance, and as such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

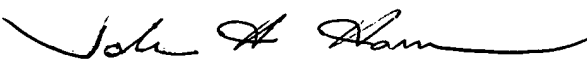
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4590US2.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4590US2.

Respectfully submitted,
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